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CPYRGHT

*Raborn Smeared*

Columnist Joseph Kraft has made use of remarks that he admits "cannot be verified and verge on gossip" to portray Vice Adm. William Raborn, USN (Ret.), as incompetent to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Adm. Raborn is supposed to mispronounce the names of foreign countries and personalities consistently", Kraft reports. "His recommendations are said to bear little relationship to the facts he presents. On occasion, apparently, he has broached as if they were fresh matters, subjects exhaustively discussed only five minutes earlier."

We are concerned about this journalistic smear. We know Adm. Raborn as a man of tremendous abilities. He bossed the Polaris missile program and earned nationwide admiration for its great success. Only a man with extraordinary energy and intelligence could have provided such a complex weapons system in short order.

Rebuttal of Mr. Kraft is in order,

for Adm. Raborn cannot defend himself against smears. The CIA has a policy of official silence.

In a way, we are not surprised that Adm. Raborn has been smeared. Every director of the CIA, which conducts the most sensitive intelligence missions, has been the target of abuse. Fortunately, the Congress and four Presidents in office since the agency was established have supported loyal servants of the United States who have held the position of director of the CIA.